

TIGER

TOPOLOGICAL INTEGRATED GEOGRAPHIC ENCODED REFERENCING

ZIP

ZONE IMPROVEMENT PLAN
1999



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Introduction

The TIGER/ZIP File is created by matching the information on the Census Bureau's TIGER File to the United States Postal Service's ZIP+4 Product. The resulting file contains over 25 million data records from more than 21,000 5-digit ZIP Codes. The records relate ZIP Codes to state, county, Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA) codes, tract number, block number, and geographic coordinate information. Coverage of the file is limited to the address ranges in ZIP+4 Product that could be successfully matched to the address ranges in the Census Bureau's TIGER File. The file also includes data collected by the USPS using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.

While there has been a careful attempt to match the address data in these files to create this product, the United States Postal Service makes no representations or warranties, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy, merchantability, fitness for any particular purpose, or otherwise with respect to the TIGER/ZIP product, nor shall the United States Postal Service be liable for any special, incidental, or consequential damages, even if it has been, or is hereafter, advised of the possibility of such damages that may result from the usage of the data contained in the TIGER/ZIP product.

File Descriptions

TIGER.DAT File

The TIGER.DAT file is used to match the state code assigned by the Census Bureau to correct the state abbreviation. It also matches the county code to its corresponding county name. The State Code and County Code fields can be found in the data records.

Table 1. TIGER.DAT File Record Layout

Field Number	Field Description	Logical Length	Relative Position From/Thru	
01	State Code	02	01	02
02	State Abbrev.	02	03	04
03	County Code	03	05	07
04	County Name	25	08	32
05	CRLF	02	33	34

Table 2. Copyright Record Layout

Field Number	Field Description	Logical Length	Relative Position From/Thru	
01	Filler	05	01	05
02	File Version Year	04	06	09
03	File Version Month	02	10	11
04	Copyright Symbol	16	12	27
05	Filler	59	28	86
06	CRLF	02	87	88

Table 3. Data Records

Field Number	Field Description	Logical Length	Relative Position From/Thru	
01	ZIP Code	05	01	05
02	ZIP Add-On	04	06	09
03	TLID	10	10	19
04	Carrier Route	04	20	23
05	State Code	02	24	25
06	County Code	03	26	28
07	RL Flag	01	29	29
08	Census Tract Number	06	30	35
09	Census Block Number	04	36	39
10	From Latitude	09	40	48
11	From Longitude	10	49	58
12	To Latitude	09	59	67
13	To Longitude	10	68	77
14	PMSA Code	04	78	81
15	CMSA Code	04	82	85
16	Multiple Match Indicator	01	86	86
17	CRLF	02	87	88

Data Element Definitions

ZIP+4 Code

ZIP: A 5-digit code that identifies a specific geographic delivery area. ZIP Codes can represent an area within a state, an area that crosses state boundaries (unusual condition), or a single building or company that has a very high mail volume. "ZIP" is an acronym for Zone Improvement Plan.

+4: Describes the last four positions of a ZIP+4 Code. Most delivery addresses are assigned a single ZIP+4 Code. However, large companies may be given a range of ZIP+4 Codes that can be used to route mail to a specific department.

TLID

Tiger Line Identification (TLID) is a universal number associated with Census Bureau products.

Carrier Route

Carrier identification code or number for a given delivery route or PO box presentation.

State Code

A 2-digit code assigned by the Census Bureau.

County Code

The 3-digit Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code assigned to counties and county equivalents in sequence within each state.

RL Flag

Right-Left Flag (RL Flag) signifies the side of the street upon which the +4 code resides (e.g., R = right, L = left, and B = both sides that are possible at times).

Census Tract Number

Small, locally delineated statistical areas within selected counties, generally having stable boundaries and, when first established by local communities, designed to have relatively homogeneous demographic characteristics.

Census Block Number

Blocks are numbered uniquely within each census tract with a 3-character number that identifies the collection block used in the census and a character block suffix. This character block suffix is often blank.

From Latitude

The north/south measurement indicating the beginning point of the address.

From Longitude

The east/west measurement indicating the beginning point of the address.

To Latitude

A north/south measurement indicating the ending point of the address.

To Longitude

The east/west measurement indicating the ending point of the address.

Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA)

A 4-digit code assigned to areas that comprise one or more counties, including a major population nucleus and nearby communities that have a high degree of interaction.

Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA)

A 4-digit code assigned to areas that consist of primary metropolitan statistical areas.

Multiple Match Indicator

The ZIP+4 Code matched with more than one census block/latitude/longitude is identified with a multiple match indicator, which would be "Y" if the condition occurred.

Multiple matches can occur because

1. The Census Bureau reported the same block with different latitude/longitude,
2. The ZIP+4 block face was in more than one census block due to coding convention differences between the Census Bureau and the United States Postal Service, or
3. Ambiguous data exists in either the Census TIGER/ZIP File, ZIP+4, or both.

CRLF

This field only appears in the ".TXT" files on the CD-ROM and is used to break the records.